



Attorney's Docket No. 032745-020

Patent

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of)
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Werner GROH et al.) Group Art Unit: 1771
)
Application No.: 09/619,535) Examiner: Torres Velazquez
)
Filed: July 19, 2000)
)
For: NON-WOVEN LAMINATE)
COMPOSITE)
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TC 1700

REPLY TO REQUIREMENT FOR RESTRICTION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Official Action issued March 26, 2002, Applicants hereby elect, albeit with traverse, the Group I "invention" which includes Claims 1-18 and 40-41, drawn to a laminate.

The Restriction Requirement is traversed because it is believed that the two groups of claims set up by the Examiner are drawn to sufficiently interrelated inventions to warrant examination thereof in a single application. Indeed, the process (method of making a laminate) of the Group II invention is substantially related to the laminate. Thus, a complete search of the laminate would necessarily turn up art relevant with regard to the process.

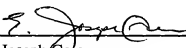
A complete search for both groups of claims would be coextensive such that search and examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden on the U.S.

Patent and Trademark Office. Moreover, examination of the interrelated Group I "invention" and the Group II "invention" would be more efficient than independent examination. Therefore, favorable reconsideration of the Requirement for Restriction is respectfully requested.

From the foregoing, substantive action on the merits of all of the claims of record is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: April 12, 2002